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COMPREHENSIVE TEST-BAN TREATY

Letter dated 1 September 1995 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the enclosed statement issued on 18 August 1995 by the President of the Republic of the Philippines, Mr. Fidel V. Ramos, on the recent nuclear test by China.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 65 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Felipe MABILANGAN
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Statement issued on 18 August 1995 by the President of the Philippines on the nuclear test conducted by China

The Philippines strongly deplores the test of a nuclear device which China conducted yesterday.

The test was the second that China had conducted since the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in April this year. It manifestly violated the understanding that had prevailed at the Conference that all nuclear-weapon States would exercise utmost restraint with respect to nuclear testing pending the conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty in 1996.

China's decision to continue testing flies in the face of the statement by the Regional Forum of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) earlier this month, which called on nuclear-weapon States to bring an immediate end to nuclear testing.

The Philippines urges China, as well as France, to abandon plans for further nuclear tests, which have raised serious concerns about the sincerity of the nuclear-weapon States, and deter disarmament initiatives, including the conclusion of a test-ban treaty.

The Philippines has consistently taken an active stand on issues relating to nuclear testing, following China's previous test and the announcement by France of its plans to resume tests in the South Pacific. We have, in our capacity as Chairman of the Group of 77, initiated resolutions in multilateral forums, including the General Assembly and the International Atomic Energy Agency, calling for an end to nuclear tests and for strict adherence to understandings reached at the Review and Extension Conference. We have also taken an active role in pushing for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South-East Asia.